

### Mass Times

**Sundays:** 9 am & 11 am  
**Saturday Vigil:** 6.00 pm  
**Tuesday & Friday:** 9.30 am  
**Fr. Michael Keohane Co-PP**



### Recently Deceased

**Phyllis O'Halloran, Castle Road**

May the light of God surround her forever.



### Families

Over the last two weekends we have celebrated the Confirmation Enrolment Ceremony for 75 young people and their families as well as continuing with the Do This in Memory programme with 80 Second Class children and their families. There is a lovely sense of welcome in the church and families are evidently happy to be very much part of these programmes. There is also a strong sense of parish with so many people gathering in the church for Saturday evening Mass. It's reassuring and encouraging to see the church so full.



As a parish, we celebrate these positive things while realising that society is changing and it's not easy to pass on faith to the children and young people in such a complex world. We are all grateful for the great work being done in our schools and I see this at first hand every week. Together, we can all welcome the children and families and may God continue to bless them in their lives.

*Fr. Michael*

085 9735905  
[frmichael@corkandross.org](mailto:frmichael@corkandross.org)

**Blessing of Throats** – Feast of St. Blaise – Mass on Monday 3rd February @ 9.30am

**Family of Parishes** – Christian Meditation Group meets each Friday morning at 11am in Blackrock Parish Centre – Contact 087 6477841 for information

**Children's Adoration** – Friday 7th February from 3 - 3.30pm in St Michael's Church, Blackrock. Join us for guided meditation, songs and time with Jesus. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. For more information contact: Katie (0877798175)

**Family of Parish Meetings** – as part of the Diocesan Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment, representatives from Blackrock Parish will join with representatives from the Parishes of Ballinlough, Blackrock Road and Mahon on 11th, 18th & 25th February in Blackrock Parish Centre.

**Welcome – Witamy** – this weekend we begin a new chapter in the life of Mahon Parish as we welcome the Polish Community. Mahon Parish and our Family of Parishes will make sure to extend the usual warm welcome so that the Polish Community will feel at home and very much part of parish life. In time, we look forward to the Polish Community becoming involved in the life of Mahon Parish and our Family of Parishes through involvement in parish representative bodies. – Fr. Michael

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart are going to Lourdes from the 25-30 May 2025 from Cork. For more details please ring Mary at 021 454 6691 or email [mary.morrish@mscmisssions.ie](mailto:mary.morrish@mscmisssions.ie).

### A brief introduction on Sunday's readings

**First reading** Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19  
What is a prophet? The call of Jeremiah captures something of the role and challenge. It might help to call to mind prophets in our own day, people who speak out awkward truths.  
**Second reading** 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13  
This is a great reading—very rich and poetic. Love is praised as a person and we can see ourselves in the portrait.  
**Gospel** Luke 4:21-30  
This is the second half of a symbolic tableau, foreshadowing the later ministry of Jesus: the opposition he would encounter and his victory in resurrection. Jesus stands in the tradition of those prophets who suffered for their message and often paid for it with their lives.

### The Papers Say.....

**Irish Catholic.** (1) In our series about the the Relentless Ministry' of priests Garry O'Sullivan interviews. Fr. Rolheiser. (2). Social media is 'biggest challenge' for youth, Gary Brennan Brennan, GAA star and teacher warns. (3) The Polish priest who celebrates Mass in Portuguese in Cork.

**Tablet of 18/1.** (1) Housing the Homeless -- The parish that made a leap of faith. (3) Ireland -- Religious sisters afraid to counter unfair and unbalanced media portrayal.

**Tablet of 2/1.** (1). The logic of the Cross. -- We long to eliminate from our lives all that causes pain. Yet our wounds can be a source of power, healing and oh. (2). Holocaust Memorial Day -- Peace through sharing of memories. (3) The Top 20 Catholic Movies including at no.9 'The Sound of Music'.

SECOND CHURCH COLLECTION W/E 8th & 9th FEBRUARY  
DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE.

Anam Cara Cork, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Face to Face Parent Support Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 5th February at 7.30pm in the Maryborough Hotel, Maryborough Hill, Douglas, T12 XR12. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age of your child, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance. We also offer an online support group meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie)



**Sunday Cuppa continues in the Parish Centre after 11 am mass on 2nd February 2025 for tea and bikkies and more chat!**  
**Cheaper than the Village 'cos it's free!!**  
*Everyone welcome - Ah go on!*



### Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment

**Family of Parish Gatherings** – Next Steps: Over the next four months all the Parishes and Families of Parishes of our Diocese will be involved in the next stage of our Year of Prayer, Listening and Discernment. This will involve representatives of each Parish Leadership Team participating in 3 meetings over 3 weeks reflecting on the questions posed in Bishop Fintan's invitation in September. Since September, people individually and in Parishes, have been praying the Diocesan Prayer from the Boat. As we continue to pray this prayer together, we pray for the success of these gatherings and we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us as together we try to pray, listen, and discern God's future for our Church.

### Observations

#### The Presentation of the Lord

It was the ancient Jewish practice to recognise the first-born by an offering to God. For example, in the case of farmers, the first cutting of the harvest was offered to God — the first fruits — as a sign that the whole harvest came from God. Likewise, the first spring lamb was offered to God by shepherds. When it came to human babies, naturally they did not offer the baby but a substitute gift, as in today's Gospel. It was a way of saying that all life is from God and it was a measure of their sense of wonder at the very gift of life itself.

So, who is this child? It helps to notice the things that are said about the baby Jesus: he is the Christ (the Messiah) of the Lord; a light to the nations; the glory of Israel; a sign of restoration and redemption. Luke portrays all these hopes while Jesus was still a baby, in anticipation of what we would become. In the light of the resurrection, we know just how deeply these hopes were fulfilled Jesus' ministry and teaching, in his death and resurrection and in the gift of the Spirit. We too can catch the thrilling expectation and joy of Simeon and Anna.

### Reflections

1. It was a day that started without any expectation of something unusual. It turned out to be a day with a meeting they would remember for a long time. Perhaps you have had significant meetings on what you expected to be just an ordinary day?
2. Simeon gave thanks because his eyes saw the salvation God had prepared. In what ways have you experienced God's salvation in your life: an experience of being loved, or discovering a sense of purpose in life, or being touched by the wonders of creation? Give thanks for those memories.
3. Simeon also acknowledged that not all would accept the light that would shine through Jesus, and this rejection would be a cause of pain to Mary. It can be a source of pain to parents, teachers, church ministers, and all who work for others when some reject values, projects, advice which would be for their good. Even within ourselves we can be aware of division, at times being open to the light of God and at other times resisting it. Have you known the pain of that struggle? What has helped you to keep seeking the light of God in your life?
4. The final sentence speaks of Jesus as one who grew and became strong and was filled with wisdom. Recall times when you had a sense of growing up in some way. What brought that about? Think also of how you have seen growth in another person.

### PRAYER

*Inspired by your Spirit, Lord, we gather in your temple to welcome your Son. Enlighten our minds and lay bare our inmost thoughts. Purify your people, and make us obedient to the demands of your law, so that we may mature in wisdom and grow to full stature in your grace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Sunday 9th February, 2025, is World Day of the Sick.**  
**On that day we are holding a special Mass at 12.15 p.m. in our church in Mahon.**

**BLACKROCK ST VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**February Church Gate collection will take place on**  
**Week ending 1/2 February 2025**  
Your support as always is greatly appreciated.  
**THERE WILL BE ONLY 1 COLLECTION ON THE SVP WEEKEND**

**Mass cards** are available in the sacristy after every mass both at weekend and weekdays.

### Thought for the day

Our Gospel today describes two very old people—Simeon and Anna—who are very attractive in their old age. They have lived prayerful lives of faith and, in particular, of hope and expectation. Being wise, they are people of discernment and they recognise the moment of grace, the coming of the Messiah. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be like them in old age? The secret is to be now what we hope to be then. If we wish to be serene, wise, discerning, full of faith—then now is the time: As St Paul says: "See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!" (2 Cor 6:2)  
*Prayer*  
*Abba, Father, God of all time, you call us to become your children. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may live our faith serenely in the present moment and give us grace to recognise the time of your appearing.*  
K O'Mahony OSA

### ENTRANCE

*Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord*

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here. Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear. In him no sin is found. We stand on holy ground. Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light! Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace. No work too hard for him; in faith receive from him. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

### RECESSIONAL

*Christ be beside me*

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me, Christ be on all tongues telling of me. Christ be the vision in eyes that see me, In ears that hear me Christ ever be.

If you would like to receive a weekly commentary on the Weekly Scripture Readings, both in AUDIO, VIDEO and in PDF, please log on to [www.tarsus.ie](http://www.tarsus.ie) and register to receive the emails.

### FIRST FRIDAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT On Friday 7th February

There are sheets on the tables in the Church where Parishioners can indicate the times most suitable for them to be present. We would like that there would be at least 2 people present for each period. If there are vacant periods we would appreciate volunteers to fill these times by putting their names on the list. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.  
*Parishioners please note on Friday 7th. February The Rosary will commence at 4pm. NOT 5pm as in the past.*

